

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR BROOME AND REPRESENTATIVES BARROW AND HONORE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize May 2011 as National Skin Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, to heighten awareness about skin cancer, May 2011 is National Skin Cancer Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States, increasing at an epidemic rate with one in five Americans developing skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays is responsible for more than 90 percent of all skin cancers; and

WHEREAS, individuals of any race or nationality can develop skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 11,790 skin cancer-related deaths occurred in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the most serious form of skin cancer is melanoma, with an estimated 68,130 people diagnosed during 2010; and

WHEREAS, risk factors vary for different types of skin cancer and include, for melanoma, a personal or family history of melanoma and the presence of atypical moles or a large quantity of moles (greater than 50); for all types of skin cancer, sun sensitivity and a history of sunburns; use of tanning booths and sun lamps; and a past history of basal cell or squamous cell skin cancers; and

WHEREAS, melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), although it accounts for only about 5% of all skin cancer cases, it is the leading cause of all skin cancer-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, solar radiation, including both UVA and UVB rays, is classified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a "known human carcinogen," or cancer-causing agent; and

WHEREAS, there are several modifiable behaviors associated with decreasing the risk for skin cancer, such as limiting exposure to the sun during the midday hours of 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; when outdoors, wearing a hat that shades the face, neck and ears; sunglasses to protect the skin around the eyes and a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher; and

WHEREAS, protecting children, in particular, from the sun is important because severe sunburns in childhood greatly increase the risk of melanoma in later life; and

WHEREAS, the best way to detect skin cancer early is to recognize changes in skin growths or the appearance of new growths; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society skin cancer screening guidelines recommend that adult men and women:

Thoroughly examine their skin on a monthly basis.

Undergo regular dermatologic assessment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May 2011 as National Skin Cancer Awareness month in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution will further promote the importance of early detection of skin cancer through adherence to screening guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES